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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Washington, D.C. 20520

EXCISE

February 9, 1978

TO : NEA - Mr. Atherton

THROUGH: NEA - Mr. Sober

FROM : NEA/ARP - Joseph W. Twinam

SUBJECT: Checklist For Your Meeting with Mrs. Benson: Thursday, February 9, 3:00 pm

SAUDI ARABIA

1. Importance of Saudi Arabia to US Interests

-- Role in Middle East peace process

[redacted]

-- Saudi oil and money

-- 1/4 of world oil reserves
-- supplying over 20% of US oil imports
-- swing producer in OPEC
-- leader for oil price moderation
-- over $60 billion in official foreign assets, invested largely in the US or in dollar instruments
-- important international lender, having committed roughly $12 billion in bilateral and multilateral grants and loans
-- $4 billion market for US goods and services

-- A leading force for regional security and political stability

[redacted] a5

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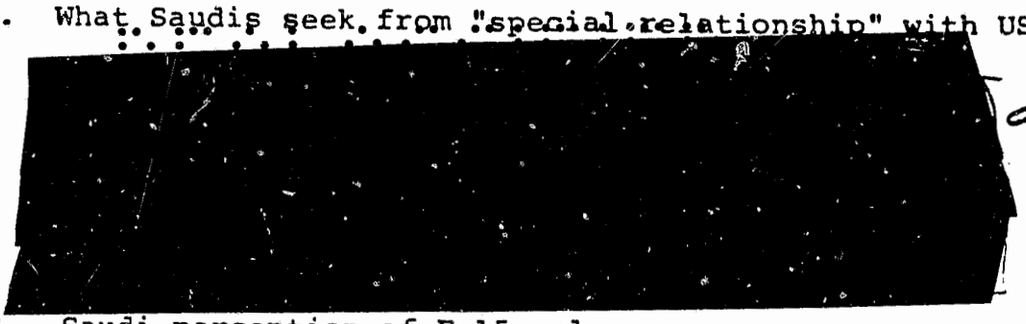
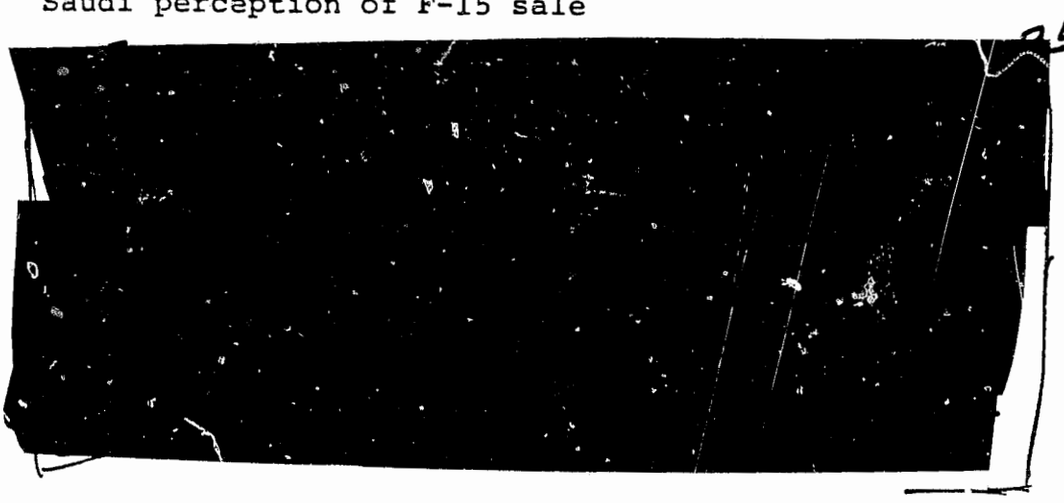
2. What Saudis seek from "special relationship" with US



3. Saudi perception of F-15 sale



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